Did You Hear the New One?

It would be unfair to accuse the man of operating under false pretenses, but I did think that Hugh McDonald was going to reveal the name of the man who killed President Kennedy. Instead he merely said that he had met him. I refer to a press conference thrown in the St. Regis hotel last week to publicize "Appointment in Dallas: the Final Solution to the Assassination of JFK."

Focus of attention at the crowded conference was naturally McDonald himself. McDonald is a bulky fellow in his middle age who looks exactly the sort of man described in his biographical details: former chief of detectives of the Los Angeles County sheriff's office; CIA contract agent; Industrial Security at Hughes Aircraft; once second in command at Fort

Guide to Franco's guts . . . How Carey did in the West . . . The girl on the stag's horn . . . The latest assassin and other exciting news.

MacArthur, the largest military intelligence school in the country, and so forth.

It would take too long to describe McDonald's saga here. Put at its briefest, he says that Herman Kinsey, a CIA man now dead, told him that a professional assassin had shot President Kennedy from the Dallas County Records building, across the road from the Book Depository. McDonald had indeed once met the assassin in Kinsey's office. He did not know his name and christened him "Saul." In June of 1972, after much searching, McDonald finally met "Saul" in the Westbury Hotel in London. There "Saul" admitted that he had shot Kennedy and told McDonald how it was done. "Saul" disappears from the story. McDonald returns to America, finally to publish his book in paperback this week.

Assassination experts will no doubt get to work on McDonald. One I talked to expressed deepest suspicion of his background in military intelligence. His narration, based on a quick thumb through the book, seems coherent enough—although most of it is entirely unverifiable. What struck me as slightly peculiar was that 13 years after the assassination a man with an extremely serious background in law

VILLAGE VOICE NOV 17, 1975

enforcement can announce that he has actually talked to the murderer of Kennedy and heard his confession and yet this announcement has, so far, scarcely caused a ripple. This is not to say necessarily that it should have caused a ripple; merely that terminal grogginess on the subject of the assassination seems to have set in. Anyway, McDonald claims to hold patents on the Indenti-Kit and the Identicator. Here is his Identi-Kit of the assassin, assembled from memory: McDonald says he is the same man as the figure photographed by CIA agents in Mexico City just before the assassination and once identified by them to the FBI in Dallas as Lee Harvey Oswald.

The man who killed JFK? Hugh McDonald offers this Identi-Kit of "Saul," the assassin he says he met in 1972 in the Westbury Hotel in London.